Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 3, 2004

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We are writing to thank you for your work on comprehensive energy legislation and seek your continued support to pass critical renewable energy provisions.

American families are paying high gas prices heading into the summer vacation season. H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2003, seeks to limit our dependence on foreign oil and promote solutions to our energy challenges. Critical to Minnesota are the numerous provisions supporting the development and utilization of renewable energy, such as ethanol, biodiesel, biomass, and wind energy.
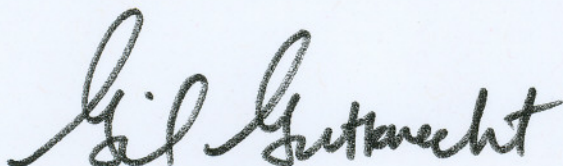
Minnesota has pioneered ethanol production, and currently boasts 15 ethanol plants as well as the largest E85 fueling infrastructure in the country. We have significant wind-energy generation and are in the process of adding more than 30 million gallons of biodiesel production. Over 11,000 Minnesotans are employed in the biobased industry generating over $3 billion for our economy.

It is our understanding other energy-related legislation may be brought to the floor this month. Moreover, negotiations continue on the FSC/ETI legislation which may also include energy related provisions. We are requesting the measures listed below be included in any upcoming legislation. By promoting renewable energy we can move toward energy independence, improve our environment, and promote jobs and investment in areas of our country that need it most. These measures include:
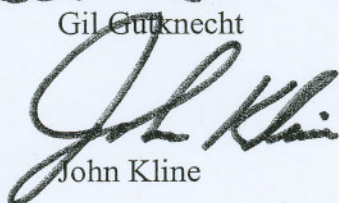
- A national renewable fuel standard;
- The Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit, simplifying and extending ethanol tax incentives;
- Tax incentives to promote the utilization of biodiesel fuel;
- Extension of the small ethanol producers tax credit; and
- Extension of the renewable energy production tax credit and production incentive.
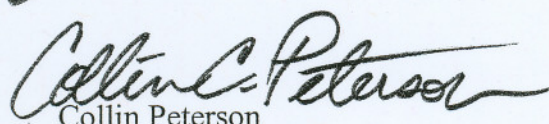
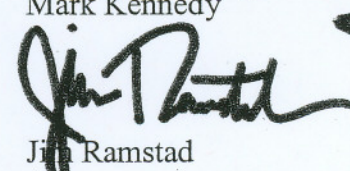Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gil Gutknecht

Mark Kennedy

John Kline

Jim Ramstad

Collin Peterson